

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23563C1

This bill would create the At Home School Readiness Pilot Program. In many parts of Idaho, children arrive at kindergarten without the fundamental building blocks of literacy and are labeled "remedial" before they've even begun. Not only does this set a child behind, it presents challenges in the classroom, as resources are diverted from moving the class forward. This legislation would establish a pilot program to provide families with an online at home reading and math program. Parents would receive training and ongoing support as they facilitate their child's participation for 15 minutes a day, 5 days a week during the year immediately preceding kindergarten. Participating families would be selected from areas of the state where children score among the lowest on the kindergarten Idaho Reading Indicator.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill is accompanied by a request for appropriation. If no money is appropriated to the pilot program then this bill has no fiscal impact. If money is appropriated to the pilot program, the fiscal impact is the amount appropriated. As an estimate, in Utah, a similar program costs an average of \$886 per child per year. However, this cost could vary based on how many low-income children participate and how many have computer and internet access.

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